

IN THE CLAIMS

1-14 (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) A sealing arrangement (10, 10')

comprising:

first and second separate armature members (11, 12),

a sealing ring (13, 13') interposed between said first and second armature members, and

a clamping means (30) for clamping the armature members (11, 12) against each other, said sealing ring (13, 13') having a substantially T-shaped annular cross-section and including first and second sealing wings (15, 16) extending in opposite axial directions, each of the sealing wings (15, 16) including a radially outwards facing sealing face (15a, 16a), and a central, rigid stem (14) between the sealing wings (15, 16) and extending radially outwards thereof,

each of the sealing faces (15a, 16a) being conically shaped to be supported against a radially surrounding, correspondingly conically shaped, intermediate, stop-forming, gliding and support face (21, 25) of a respective armature member,

each of the intermediate conical support faces (21, 25) of the armature members (11, 12) extending at a first cone angle (a),

the sealing face of each of the sealing wings (15, 16) extending at a second cone angle (b) greater than the cone angle (a) of the intermediate, stop-

forming, conical support faces (21, 25) of the armature members (11, 12) prior to mounting, and after mounting extending at said first cone angle (a) to form a tight sealing abutment against the corresponding intermediate, stop-forming, conical support face (21, 25), wherein the entire rigid stem (14) and the first sealing wing (15) are seated in the first armature member (11), and the second sealing wing (16) is seated in the second armature member (12),

wherein in the first armature member (11), a first side face (14b) of the stem (14) is seated in an axially facing, outermost guide surface (20), an end face (14a) of the stem (14) is seated in a radially facing cylindrical, outermost lying support face (22), and the first sealing wing (15) of the sealing ring (13, 13') is seated in one of the intermediate, stop-forming, conical support faces (21), and, in the second armature member (12), a second side face (14c) of the stem (14) is seated in another axially facing, outermost guide surface (24), and the second wing (16) of the sealing ring (13, 13') is seated in the other intermediate, stop-forming, conical support face (25),

wherein the outermost lying support face (22) extends continuously in axial direction and solely in one of the armature members (11, 12), the outermost lying support face (22) being smooth to provide a continuous gliding support surface for the end face (14a) of the stem (14) directly against the outermost lying support face (22)[[.]] ,

wherein the first side face (14b) and the second side face (14c) of the stem (14) are dimensioned relative to the corresponding outermost guide surfaces (20, 24) so as to be spaced at a distance from the corresponding

outermost guide surfaces (20, 24) after mounting.

16-17 (Canceled)

18. (Previously presented) The arrangement as claimed in claim 15, wherein each of the sealing wings (15, 16) has, in a radial direction, a small cross-sectional dimension, increasing from a minimum at an outer end portion to a maximum at an inner end portion proximate the stem (14), and each of the sealing wings (15, 16), in an axial direction, has a large cross-sectional dimension, to obtain support of the sealing wings (15, 16) along a major area of the respective intermediate conical support face (21, 25), both of the cross-sectional dimensions being relatively larger in respect of the cross-sectional dimensions of the stem (14), in the axial as well as in the radial direction to provide a rigid stem (14).

19. (Previously presented) The arrangement as claimed in claim 15, wherein the clamping means (30) comprises two radially directed, mutual overlapping armature member portions (26, 27) extending radially outside of the sealing ring (13, 13'), and a controlled, stop-forming abutment between the armature members (11, 12) formed by the armature member portions (26, 27), supporting each other along mutually opposite conical support faces extending obliquely with respect to a central axis of the sealing arrangement.

20. (Previously presented) The arrangement as claimed in claim 19, wherein during use, a controlled gliding movement in the sealing arrangement is provided by the combination of the oblique extension of the mutually overlapping, stop forming armature member portions (26, 27) and the elastically deformable wings (15, 16) of the sealing ring (13, 13').

21. (Previously Presented) The arrangement as claimed in claim 15, wherein each of the sealing faces (15a, 16a) of said sealing ring (13, 13') has the same axial extension as that of the associated sealing wing (15, 16), each of the sealing faces (15a, 16a) has a continuous, rectilinear extension in an axial direction of the associated sealing wing (15 16), and each of the sealing faces (15a, 16a) tapers in an axial direction from the stem (14) and is elastically deformable in relation to the stem (14), in order to secure a controlled elastic deformation of the sealing wings (15, 16).

22 - Cancelled

23. (Currently Amended) The arrangement as claimed in claim ~~22~~ 15, wherein the distance between the first and second side faces (14b, 14c) and the corresponding outermost guide surfaces (20, 24) is 1-3 mm.

24. (Currently Amended) The arrangement as claimed in claim 15, wherein the sealing ring (13, 13') has end sealing faces (15b, 16b) at ends of the sealing wings (15, 16), the armature members (11, 12) have end support faces (19, 23) facing the end sealing faces (15b, 16b) ~~for contact therewith~~.

25. (Previously Presented) The arrangement as claimed in claim 24, wherein the end sealing faces (15b, 16b) are dimensioned relative to the corresponding end support faces (19, 23) so as to be spaced at a distance from the end support faces (19, 23) after mounting.

26. (Currently Amended) A sealing arrangement (10, 10') comprising:

first and second separate armature members (11, 12), said armature members being fitted one within the other along conical contact surfaces (26a, 27a),

a sealing ring (13, 13') interposed between said first and second armature members, and

a clamping means (30) for axially clamping the conical contact surfaces of the armature members (11, 12) against each other,

said sealing ring (13, 13') having a T-shaped cross-section and including first and second sealing wings (15, 16) extending in opposite axial directions, and a stem (14) extending radially outwards thereof between the sealing wings (15, 16), each of the sealing wings (15, 16) having a radially outwards facing

sealing face (15a, 16a) and an end ~~sealing~~ face (15b, 16b) extending radially from the sealing face (15a, 16a), the stem (14) having side faces (14b, 14c) adjacent to the first and second sealing wings (15, 16) and an end face (14a) between the side faces (14b, 14c),

said first and second armature members being axially slidable on one another along said contact surfaces (26a, 27a) to a mounting position to sealingly secure the sealing ring, each of the first and second armature members (11, 12) having an axially facing, outermost guide surface (20, 24) facing a respective one of the side faces (14b, 14c) ~~for contact therewith,~~ an of the stem, a conical support face (21, 25) for forming a tight sealing abutment against one of the sealing faces (15a, 16a) of the sealing wings after said armature members reach said mounting position, and an axially facing end guide surface (19, 23) facing one of the end ~~sealing~~ faces (15b, 16b) ~~for contact therewith~~ of the sealing wings,

one of the first and second armature members (11, 12) further having a smooth outermost lying support face (22) extending continuously in axial direction and providing a continuous gliding support surface for the entire end face (14a) of the stem (14) directly against the smooth outermost lying support face (22).

27. (Previously Presented) The arrangement as claimed in claim 26, wherein the side faces (14b, 14c) are dimensioned relative to the corresponding outermost guide surfaces (20, 24) so as to be spaced at a distance from the

corresponding outermost guide surfaces (20, 24) after mounting.

28. (Previously Presented) The arrangement as claimed in claim 27, wherein the space between the side faces (14b, 14c) and the corresponding outermost guide surfaces is 1-3mm after mounting.

29. (Currently Amended) The arrangement as claimed in claim 26, wherein the end ~~sealing~~ faces (15b, 16b) are dimensioned relative to the corresponding end guide faces (19, 23) so as to be spaced at a distance from the corresponding end guide faces (19, 23) after mounting.

30. (Previously Presented) The arrangement as claimed in claim 26, wherein the smooth outermost lying support face (22) is of cylindrical shape.

Add the following new claims:

31. (New) The arrangement as claimed in claim 26, wherein said first and second armature members are relatively axially movable and have slidable contact surfaces (26a, 27a) which are conical so that as the armature members move axially and slide on one another, the contact surfaces (20, 24) travel axially and radially relative to one another.

32. (New) The arrangement as claimed in claim 31, wherein said armature members are in the form of pipe couplings.

33. (New) The arrangement as claimed in claim 31, wherein said clamping means applies axial pressure to cause said armature members to engage said conical surfaces thereof against one another.

34. (New) The arrangement as claimed in claim 30, wherein said smooth outermost lying face (22) of cylindrical shape merges with the conical sliding surface (27a) of the respective armature member.

35. (New) The arrangement as claimed in claim 26, wherein said sealing ring and said armature members are made of the same material.